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TO THE COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the *9th of August 1934.*
25th of Karkadagam 1109.

The House met at half-past twelve with C. G. Herbert Esquire, I. C. S., the President, in the Chair. Dr. A.G. Menon, Messrs. C. Barton Wright, K. G. Nayar, A. I. Mani, K. T. Mathew, K. Mohamed Seethi and C. A. Ouseph were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Investing the Panchayats with powers to try cases under the Cattle Trespass Regulation.

286. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to question No. 97, dated 15th January 1934:—

(a) whether the enquiry is over ;

(b) whether a copy of the enquiry report will be printed and placed on the table ;

(c) what action has been taken on the report;

(d) what action has been taken to grant the prayer contained in the petition?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the report is placed on the table. (*Appendix I.*)

(c) and (d) Government are not in favour of investing the Panchayat with powers to investigate and adjudicate on complaints under the Cattle Trespass Regulation. As regards enhancing the penalty, the fines were doubled only as recently as 1102 and no further enhancement is necessary at present.

Bills passed by the Legislative Council.

287. Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Will the Government be pleased to give the names of the Bills passed by the Council which have not been disposed of by the Government;

(2) will they further state the dates of the passing of the Bills in the Council.

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APPENDIX I

Letter B. 3716/1109, dated 9th April 1934, from the Diwan Peishkar.

Destruction of crops—stray cattle—complaint against—Talappalli Taluk.

The petitioners' complaint is against the unsympathetic and callous attitude shown by the rich people in allowing their cattle to stray and cause serious and incalculable damage to the crops raised by the agriculturists of the villages referred to in the petition. Their prayers for relief are two-fold.—(i) To arrest the mischief by enhancement of the penalty to Rs. 2 and (ii) to empower local Panchayats, upon a petition presented by the aggrieved party, to investigate and assess the damages and to recover damages, if any, awarded by summary process, by extending the provisions of the Revenue Recovery Regulation to such cases. The petitioners further assert that the cattle pounds are powerless in these matters to exercise any influence for the good as the amounts payable by the owners of cattle impounded and kept in the pounds are small and hence of very little deterrent effect.

2. With respect to the enhancement proposed, I have to state that the fine was once enhanced in 1102 by Notification dated 10th Mithunam 1102 (Dis. 1472/D—L. L. D). The fines now levied can by no means be regarded as inadequate and a further enhancement would work considerable hardship among cattle owners, without producing any tangible or appreciable effect.

3. As regards the other suggestion, I think that it would be dangerous to a certain extent to invest all the Panchayats of the State with the powers of investigation into and determination of damages in cases of alleged straying and their realisation by summary process, but in view of the fact that enquiries have elicited the fact that the agriculturists of the villages of Kunnamkulam firkah are the worst sufferers in this respect, I would suggest that the experiment may well be tried in a select group, Palanji for instance, after giving instructions to the Registrar of Village Panchayats, to keep a vigilant eye on the Panchayat.

4. The petitions are returned.

APPENDIX II.

Copy of letter to the Secretary, Buy Indian League, Madras.

I have the honour, by direction, to inform you that the Darbar is pleased to grant a donation of Rs. 750 for the current year. Arrangements are being made to send articles for exhibition and sale there. Government note that you will do all that is possible to popularise the goods and that you will render monthly accounts of the goods sent to you and remit the sale proceeds taking 6¼ % as your commission.

Copy of letter to Mr. Alexander Wygard.

I have the honour, by direction, to inform you that your letter has been ordered to be published in the Cochin Government Gazette for the information of those interested in the proposal. The Diwan regrets that nothing further can be done at present.

(True copies)

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